The Actuarial Profession

making financial sense of the future



Variable annuities seminar Matt Ward - Defaqto



Analyst's perspective UK market landscape

17 September 2010

About Defaqto



Defaqto Overview

- A leading independent financial research company specialising in rating, comparing and analysing financial products;
- Since 1994 Defaqto has built the largest whole of market product database;
- Defaqto collects and analyses more than 30,000 products from nearly 2,000 providers across banking, LPI and GI;
- Defaqto's experts validate and analyse the data and transform it into insightful information for distribution to all layers of the financial services sector.

'Third Way' landscape in the UK



Overview

- Industry issues
- Market developments
- IFA business habits
- Consumer sentiment
- Panel questions

Industry issues



Continued challenges ahead

- Economic climate deterring new entrants
 - Financial difficulties forcing business repositioning
 - Cost of guarantees; keeping the balance right
 - Capital reserves required
- Legislation/Regulation
 - RDR; some positives but adviser focus on business shape
 - Age 75; product and system developments required
- Potentially mainstream appeal but still niche market

Market developments



Healthy activity over past 12 months

- Alternative annuity launches LV=, Canada Life, MGM Advantage, Alico Wealth Management
- Rebranding AEGON and Sun Life Financial of Canada
- MetLife TIP access to SIPP investors
- AEGON investment bond relaunch
- New market entrant expected shortly
- Competition and choice increasing

Defaqto IFA research – importance placed on retirement income products



| Post-retirement product | Total importance to IFAs - 2009 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Enhanced/Impaired annuity | 77% |
| Unsecured pension | 70% |
| Conventional annuity | 63% |
| 'Third way' products | 39% |
| Invested annuities | 36% |
| Fixed term annuities | 35% |

Defaqto IFA research



Key messages

- 'Third Way' product definitions becoming clearer
 - Investment backed annuities; bonds and pensions
 - Fixed/short term annuities
 - Invested annuities
- IFA appetite for 'Third Way' products but increased competition
- Further education on how to advise clients on suitability needed
- Retirement income due diligence becoming tougher

Defaqto consumer research – preference for certainty of retirement income



| Retirement income certainty | Consumer preference - 2009 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 100% guaranteed | 36% |
| 75% guaranteed; 25% speculative | 14% |
| 50% guaranteed; 50% speculative | 11% |
| 25% guaranteed; 75% speculative | 2% |
| 100% speculative | 2% |
| Don't know | 17% |

Defaqto consumer research – making pensions more attractive



| Potential enhancements | Consumer preference - 2009 |
|--|----------------------------|
| More of a guaranteed return | 40% |
| Better tax incentives | 29% |
| Being able to pass funds onto family | 24% |
| More flexibility over benefit withdrawal | 24% |
| More control over investments | 19% |
| Simpler products | 23% |
| Cheaper products | 16% |
| None of these | 25% |

Defaqto consumer research



Key messages

- Clear consumer appetite for:
 - Secure income and guarantees
 - Retirement income flexibility
 - Passing on benefits to families
- How to move from niche product to mainstream appeal?
 - Enhance understanding of risk in retirement
 - Promote value of guarantee over cost
 - Create positive media coverage

Panel questions



Expressions of individual views by members of The Actuarial Profession and its staff are encouraged.

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter.

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